

The Remnant of Israel

Key Scriptures

Romans 11:1-14 I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. ² God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, ³ "LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life"? ⁴ But what does the divine response say to him? "I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal."

⁵ Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace. ⁶ And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. ⁷ What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded. ⁸ Just as it is written: "God has given them a spirit of stupor, Eyes that they should not see And ears that they should not hear, To this very day." ⁹ And David says: "Let their table become a snare and a trap, A stumbling block and a recompense to them. ¹⁰ Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see, and bow down their back always." ¹¹ I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. ¹² Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! ¹³ For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, ¹⁴ if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them.

Key Point: God is willing to harden those who are disobedient to His revelation. Yet he is always faithful to keep His promises.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- As a child, what item did a friend or sibling possess that made you jealous?
- What moments of rejection in your teen years do you remember vividly? (getting cut from the team? Not being invited to the big party? Turned down for a date? Etc.)

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- (v. 1-6) What are the three or four bits of evidence that Paul gives to prove God has not rejected the Jews?
- (v.7-10) How does the word 'recompense/retribution' in v.9 answer the person who says "It is unfair of God to harden a person's heart and mind toward the gospel! They never had a chance!" (Refer to similar verses in chapter 9 or 10).
- (v. 11-16) What does Paul mean when he says he seeks to make Jewish unbelievers jealous? Isn't that stirring up unworthy motives?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Could someone looking at your life clearly see, and so come to envy, the benefits of the gospel you enjoy?
- How can Christians stimulate one another to increase the fruitfulness of their lives . . . to avoid being blinded to spiritual realities by sin? What should you do if a professing Christian appears insensitive to spiritual truth? How is spiritual blindness or hardness removed?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- God not rejecting Israel points back to the fact God is THE Promise Keeper. What fears in our life can be relieved by trusting in Gods promises this week?

Prayer Requests. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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